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PAGE 01 STATE 183116

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O 141741Z SEP 73 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CI, PFOR

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH NEW CHILEAN GOVERNMENT

REF: A) SANTIAGO 4173; B) STATE 222317 DATED DEC 8, 1973

- 1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS CABLE IS TO PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE TO EMBASSY IN DEALING WITH CHILEAN AUTHORITIES PENDING DECISIONS ON CONTINUATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HOW THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH BY USG IN RECENT PAST. NATURE, TIMING AND TEXT OF ANY USG RESPONSE TO NOTE CONTAINED REF A WILL BE COVERED SEPTEL.
- 2. DURING NEXT FEW DAYS, EMBASSY SHOULD ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN ROUTINE WORKING CONTACTS AND HOLD OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES WHICH ARE STILL FUNCTIONING. AS APPROPRIATE, YOU SHOULD ALSO SEEK TO ESTABLISH INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH NEW AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 183116

FORMAL ACTS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS RESPONSE TO

CHILEAN NOTE REF A, OR OTHER ACT CONSTITUTING RECOGNITION SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

3. YOU SHOULD ALSO AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION IN THESE CONTACTS THAT RECOGNITION WILL BE TREATED BY USG AS A MAJOR QUESTION THAT WE SHALL FORMALLY OR DRAMATICALLY DECIDE AND ANNOUNCE. WORD "RECOGNITION" OR TALK ABOUT SUSPENSION OF

RELATIONS ARE TO BE AVOIDED. (RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUERIES SHOULD BE TO REFRAIN FROM ANY COMMENT.)

4. FYI: THE BASIC THRUST OF OUR APPROACH IS TO PLAY ANY OUESTION ABOUT RECOGNITION IN AS LOW A KEY AS POSSIBLE WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDANCE OF SEEMING TO APPROVE OR DIS-APPROVE THE NEW GOVERNMENT. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT PRACTICE FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AND WITH S. RES. 205 (1969) "THAT IT IS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT WHEN THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES A FOREIGN GOVERN-MENT AND EXCHANGES DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES WITH IT, THIS DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE UNITED STATES NECESSARILY APPROVES OF THE FORM, IDEOLOGY, OR POLICY OF THAT GOVERN-MENT." IN BRIEF, THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY IS TO MINIMIZE TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE RECOGNITION QUESTIONS, CONCENTRATING INSTEAD ON QUESTION OF WHETHER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS CONTINUE. UNCERTAINTIES GENERATED BY THE TRADITIONAL RECOGNITION POLICY, WHICH MANY EQUATED WITH APPROVAL, HAVE NOT SERVED UNITED STATES INTERESTS WELL. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET FORMALLY MOVED TO FRENCH AND MEXICAN PRACTICE ("ESTRADA" DOCTRINE) OF RECOGNIZING STATES RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS, WE ATTEMPT TO AVOID DIRECT ADDRESS TO THE OUESTION OF RECOGNITION WHEREVER POSSIBLE. GENERALLY, ONCE THE SITUATION HAS CLARIFIED. THE NEW REGIME IS FIRMLY ESTABLISHED. AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEGUN TO RECOGNIZE OR FORMALLY TO CON-TINUE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WE FIND AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF OUR INTENTION TO MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. RECOGNITION IS NOT REPEAT NOT MENTIONED BUT MAY BE IMPLIED. (WE ALSO AVOID TALK OF SUSPENSION OF RELATIONS.) IN SEVERAL RECENT CASES, HOWEVER, WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN ELEMENTS OF CONTI-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 183116

NUITY IN THE SITUATION, INCLUDING RECENT ABROGATION OF MONARCHY IN GREECE AND COUP IN HONDURAS, THE DEPARTMENT HAS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT NO QUESTION OF RECOGNITION ARISES AND RELATIONS SIMPLY HAVE CONTINUED.

5. WHERE NO ELEMENTS OF CONTINUITY ARE APPARENT, AS IN CASE OF AFGHANISTAN IN JULY, IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONTEND IN PUBLIC THAT THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION DOES NOT ARISE.

AT THAT TIME WE WERE PREPARED TO SAY UPON QUESTIONING THAT WE WERE CONTINUING RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN THAT WHEN WE CONTINUE RELATIONS IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION, AND IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO DO SO. CHILEAN SITUATION IS IN SOME RESPECTS SIMILAR TO THAT OF AFGHANISTAN, BUT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE AS TO HOW WE WILL CHARACTERIZE CONTINUATION OF RELATIONS IF DECISION IS MADE TO DO SO. RUSH

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